

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

To place the application in better form, Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification, which includes a new abstract. For the Examiner's convenience, also provided is a marked-up copy of the original specification showing the portions thereof which are being changed. The substitute specification includes the same changes as are indicated in the marked-up copy. Applicants' undersigned attorney has reviewed the substitute specification and submits that the substitute specification contains no new matter.

Claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 15-18 are presented for consideration. Claims 4, 6, 11 and 13 are independent. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12 and 14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to file a continuing application directed to the subject matter of these claims. Claims 4, 6, 11, 13, 15 and 16 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 17 and 18 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

The Examiner required that Figures 2A, 2B and 6 be labeled as "PRIOR ART." Applicant has so labeled these drawings and submits corrected replacement sheets by separate paper filed concurrently herewith. Favorable consideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 4, 6, 11 and 13 were indicated as containing allowable subject and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. To expedite allowance

of this application, Applicant has so rewritten these claims in independent form. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 4, 6, 11 and 13, as well as claims 15-18 variously depending from independent claims 11 and 13, should be deemed allowable at the outset.

Turning now to the art rejections, claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,481 to Mori. Claims 3, 7, 10 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mori patent. Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Mori patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,844,918 to Koren et al. Applicant submits that the cited art, whether taken individually or in combination, does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention, as previously recited in claims 1-16. Therefore, these rejections are respectfully traversed.


Nevertheless, as discussed above, Applicant has rewritten claims 4, 6, 11 and 13 in independent form in order to expedite prosecution. Applicant submits, therefore, that all pending claims, namely, claims 4, 6, 11, 13 and 15-18, are allowable. Such favorable indication is requested.

Applicant submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are also requested.

Applicant also requests that the Examiner contact his undersigned representative should any matters be deemed outstanding precluding allowance of this application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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